



General Assembly

January Session, 2015

Raised Bill No. 1015

LCO No. 4240



Referred to Committee on VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Introduced by:
(VA)

AN ACT EXPANDING PROGRAMS FOR VETERANS IN THE JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2015*) (a) For the purposes of
2 this section "veterans docket" means a docket in a geographical area
3 separate and apart from other criminal matters for the hearing of
4 criminal matters in which a defendant is a veteran, and "veteran"
5 means a person who was discharged or released from active service in
6 the armed forces as defined in section 27-103 of the general statutes.

7 (b) The Chief Court Administrator shall establish a veterans docket
8 in each geographical area of the state. Such veterans docket shall be
9 modeled on the veterans docket in the judicial district of Norwich.

10 Sec. 2. Section 54-56l of the general statutes is repealed and the
11 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

12 (a) There shall be a supervised diversionary program for persons
13 with psychiatric disabilities, or persons who are veterans, who are

14 accused of a crime or crimes or a motor vehicle violation or violations
15 for which a sentence to a term of imprisonment may be imposed,
16 which crimes or violations are not of a serious nature. For the purposes
17 of this section, (1) "psychiatric disability" means a mental or emotional
18 condition, other than solely substance abuse, that (A) has substantial
19 adverse effects on the defendant's ability to function, and (B) requires
20 care and treatment, and (2) "veteran" means a person who is found,
21 pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, to have a mental health
22 condition that is amenable to treatment, and who was discharged or
23 released under conditions other than dishonorable from active service
24 in the armed forces as defined in section 27-103.

25 (b) A person shall be ineligible to participate in such supervised
26 diversionary program if such person (1) is ineligible to participate in
27 the pretrial program for accelerated rehabilitation under subsection (c)
28 of section 54-56e, as amended by this act, or (2) has twice previously
29 participated in such supervised diversionary program.

30 (c) Upon application by any such person for participation in such
31 program, the court shall, but only as to the public, order the court file
32 sealed, provided such person states under oath, in open court or before
33 any person designated by the clerk and duly authorized to administer
34 oaths, under penalties of perjury, that such person has not had such
35 program invoked in such person's behalf more than once. Court
36 personnel shall provide notice, on a form approved by rule of court, to
37 any victim of such crime or motor vehicle violation, by registered or
38 certified mail, that such person has applied to participate in the
39 program and that such victim has an opportunity to be heard by the
40 court on the matter.

41 (d) The court shall refer such person to the Court Support Services
42 Division for confirmation of eligibility and assessment of the person's
43 mental health condition. The prosecuting attorney shall provide the
44 division with a copy of the police report in the case to assist the
45 division in its assessment. The division shall determine if the person is

46 amenable to treatment and if appropriate community supervision,
47 treatment and services are available. If the division determines that the
48 person is amenable to treatment and that appropriate community
49 supervision, treatment and services are available, the division shall
50 develop a treatment plan tailored to the person and shall present the
51 treatment plan to the court.

52 (e) Upon confirmation of eligibility and consideration of the
53 treatment plan presented by the Court Support Services Division, the
54 court may grant the application for participation in the program. If the
55 court grants the application, such person shall be referred to the
56 division. The division may collaborate with the Department of Mental
57 Health and Addiction Services, the Department of Veterans' Affairs or
58 the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, as applicable, to
59 place such person in a program that provides appropriate community
60 supervision, treatment and services. The person shall be subject to the
61 supervision of a probation officer who has a reduced caseload and
62 specialized training in working with persons with psychiatric
63 disabilities.

64 (f) The Court Support Services Division shall establish policies and
65 procedures to require division employees to notify any victim of the
66 person admitted to the program of any conditions ordered by the court
67 that directly affect the victim and of such person's scheduled court
68 appearances with respect to the case.

69 (g) Any person who enters the program shall agree: (1) To the
70 tolling of the statute of limitations with respect to such crime or
71 violation; (2) to a waiver of such person's right to a speedy trial; and (3)
72 to any conditions that may be established by the division concerning
73 participation in the supervised diversionary program including
74 conditions concerning participation in meetings or sessions of the
75 program.

76 (h) If the Court Support Services Division informs the court that

77 such person is ineligible for the program and the court makes a
78 determination of ineligibility or if the division certifies to the court that
79 such person did not successfully complete the assigned program, the
80 court shall order the court file to be unsealed, enter a plea of not guilty
81 for such person and immediately place the case on the trial list.

82 (i) If such person satisfactorily completes the assigned program,
83 such person may apply for dismissal of the charges against such
84 person and the court, on reviewing the record of such person's
85 participation in such program submitted by the Court Support
86 Services Division and on finding such satisfactory completion, shall
87 dismiss the charges. If such person does not apply for dismissal of the
88 charges against such person after satisfactorily completing the
89 assigned program, the court, upon receipt of the record of such
90 person's participation in such program submitted by the Court
91 Support Services Division, may on its own motion make a finding of
92 such satisfactory completion and dismiss the charges. Except as
93 provided in subsection (j) of this section, upon dismissal, all records of
94 such charges shall be erased pursuant to section 54-142a. An order of
95 the court denying a motion to dismiss the charges against a person
96 who has completed such person's period of probation or supervision
97 or terminating the participation of a person in such program shall be a
98 final judgment for purposes of appeal.

99 (j) The Court Support Services Division shall develop and maintain
100 a database of information concerning persons admitted to the
101 supervised diversionary program that shall be available to the state
102 police and organized local police departments for use by sworn police
103 officers when responding to incidents involving such persons. Such
104 information shall include the person's name, date of birth, Social
105 Security number, the violation or violations with which the person was
106 charged, the dates of program participation and whether a deadly
107 weapon or dangerous instrument was involved in the violation or
108 violations for which the program was granted. The division shall enter
109 such information in the database upon such person's entry into the

110 program, update such information as necessary and retain such
111 information for a period of five years after the date of such person's
112 entry into the program.

113 (k) The Court Support Services Division, in consultation with the
114 Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, shall develop
115 standards and oversee appropriate treatment programs to meet the
116 requirements of this section and may contract with service providers to
117 provide such programs.

118 (l) The Court Support Services Division shall retain the police report
119 provided to it by the prosecuting attorney and the record of
120 supervision including the dates of supervision and shall provide such
121 information to the court, prosecuting attorney and defense counsel
122 whenever a court is considering whether to grant an application by
123 such person for participation in the supervised diversionary program
124 for a second time.

125 (m) Not later than January 15, 2016, the Court Support Services
126 Division shall submit a report detailing the number of (1) veterans, and
127 (2) nonveterans who were admitted into the program or who were
128 denied admission into the program in the preceding calendar year to
129 the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
130 cognizance of matters relating to veterans' and military affairs and the
131 judiciary, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a.

132 Sec. 3. Section 54-56e of the general statutes is repealed and the
133 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

134 (a) There shall be a pretrial program for accelerated rehabilitation of
135 persons accused of a crime or crimes or a motor vehicle violation or
136 violations for which a sentence to a term of imprisonment may be
137 imposed, which crimes or violations are not of a serious nature. Upon
138 application by any such person for participation in the program, the
139 court shall, but only as to the public, order the court file sealed.

140 (b) The court may, in its discretion, invoke such program on motion
141 of the defendant or on motion of a state's attorney or prosecuting
142 attorney with respect to a defendant (1) who, the court believes, will
143 probably not offend in the future, (2) who has no previous record of
144 conviction of a crime or of a violation of section 14-196, subsection (c)
145 of section 14-215, section 14-222a, subsection (a) or subdivision (1) of
146 subsection (b) of section 14-224 or section 14-227a, and (3) who states
147 under oath, in open court or before any person designated by the clerk
148 and duly authorized to administer oaths, under the penalties of
149 perjury, (A) that the defendant has never had such program invoked
150 on the defendant's behalf or that the defendant was charged with a
151 misdemeanor or a motor vehicle violation for which a term of
152 imprisonment of one year or less may be imposed and ten or more
153 years have passed since the date that any charge or charges for which
154 the program was invoked on the defendant's behalf were dismissed by
155 the court, or (B) with respect to a defendant who is a veteran, that the
156 defendant has not had such program invoked in the defendant's behalf
157 more than once previously, provided the defendant shall agree thereto
158 and provided notice has been given by the defendant, on a form
159 approved by rule of court, to the victim or victims of such crime or
160 motor vehicle violation, if any, by registered or certified mail and such
161 victim or victims have an opportunity to be heard thereon. Any
162 defendant who makes application for participation in such program
163 shall pay to the court an application fee of thirty-five dollars. No
164 defendant shall be allowed to participate in the pretrial program for
165 accelerated rehabilitation more than two times. For the purposes of
166 this section, "veteran" means any person who was discharged or
167 released under conditions other than dishonorable from active service
168 in the armed forces as defined in section 27-103.

169 (c) This section shall not be applicable: (1) To any person charged
170 with a class A felony, a class B felony, except a violation of subdivision
171 (1), (2) or (3) of subsection (a) of section 53a-122 that does not involve
172 the use, attempted use or threatened use of physical force against

173 another person, or a violation of subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of
174 section 53a-122 that does not involve the use, attempted use or
175 threatened use of physical force against another person and does not
176 involve a violation by a person who is a public official, as defined in
177 section 1-110, or a state or municipal employee, as defined in section 1-
178 110, or a violation of section 14-227a, subdivision (2) of subsection (a)
179 of section 53-21, section 53a-56b, 53a-60d, 53a-70, 53a-70a, 53a-70b, 53a-
180 71, except as provided in subdivision (5) of this subsection, 53a-72a,
181 53a-72b, 53a-90a, 53a-196e or 53a-196f, (2) to any person charged with a
182 crime or motor vehicle violation who, as a result of the commission of
183 such crime or motor vehicle violation, causes the death of another
184 person, (3) to any person accused of a family violence crime as defined
185 in section 46b-38a who (A) is eligible for the pretrial family violence
186 education program established under section 46b-38c, or (B) has
187 previously had the pretrial family violence education program
188 invoked in such person's behalf, (4) to any person charged with a
189 violation of section 21a-267 or 21a-279 who (A) is eligible for the
190 pretrial drug education and community service program established
191 under section 54-56i, or (B) has previously had the pretrial drug
192 education program or the pretrial drug education and community
193 service program invoked on such person's behalf, (5) unless good
194 cause is shown, to (A) any person charged with a class C felony, or (B)
195 any person charged with committing a violation of subdivision (1) of
196 subsection (a) of section 53a-71 while such person was less than four
197 years older than the other person, (6) to any person charged with a
198 violation of section 9-359 or 9-359a, (7) to any person charged with a
199 motor vehicle violation (A) while operating a commercial motor
200 vehicle, as defined in section 14-1, or (B) who holds a commercial
201 driver's license or commercial driver's instruction permit at the time of
202 the violation, or (8) any person charged with a violation of subdivision
203 (6) of subsection (a) of section 53a-60.

204 (d) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, any
205 defendant who enters such program shall pay to the court a

206 participation fee of one hundred dollars. Any defendant who enters
207 such program shall agree to the tolling of any statute of limitations
208 with respect to such crime and to a waiver of the right to a speedy trial.
209 Any such defendant shall appear in court and shall, under such
210 conditions as the court shall order, be released to the custody of the
211 Court Support Services Division, except that, if a criminal docket for
212 drug-dependent persons has been established pursuant to section
213 51-181b in the judicial district, such defendant may be transferred,
214 under such conditions as the court shall order, to the court handling
215 such docket for supervision by such court. If the defendant refuses to
216 accept, or, having accepted, violates such conditions, the defendant's
217 case shall be brought to trial. The period of such probation or
218 supervision, or both, shall not exceed two years. If the defendant has
219 reached the age of sixteen years but has not reached the age of eighteen
220 years, the court may order that as a condition of such probation the
221 defendant be referred for services to a youth service bureau
222 established pursuant to section 10-19m, provided the court finds,
223 through an assessment by a youth service bureau or its designee, that
224 the defendant is in need of and likely to benefit from such services.
225 When determining any conditions of probation to order for a person
226 entering such program who was charged with a misdemeanor that did
227 not involve the use, attempted use or threatened use of physical force
228 against another person or a motor vehicle violation, the court shall
229 consider ordering the person to perform community service in the
230 community in which the offense or violation occurred. If the court
231 determines that community service is appropriate, such community
232 service may be implemented by a community court established in
233 accordance with section 51-181c if the offense or violation occurred
234 within the jurisdiction of a community court established by said
235 section. If the defendant is charged with a violation of section 46a-58,
236 53-37a, 53a-181j, 53a-181k or 53a-181l, the court may order that as a
237 condition of such probation the defendant participate in a hate crimes
238 diversion program as provided in subsection (e) of this section. If a
239 defendant is charged with a violation of section 53-247, the court may

240 order that as a condition of such probation the defendant undergo
241 psychiatric or psychological counseling or participate in an animal
242 cruelty prevention and education program provided such a program
243 exists and is available to the defendant.

244 (e) If the court orders the defendant to participate in a hate crimes
245 diversion program as a condition of probation, the defendant shall pay
246 to the court a participation fee of four hundred twenty-five dollars. No
247 person may be excluded from such program for inability to pay such
248 fee, provided (1) such person files with the court an affidavit of
249 indigency or inability to pay, (2) such indigency or inability to pay is
250 confirmed by the Court Support Services Division, and (3) the court
251 enters a finding thereof. The Judicial Department shall contract with
252 service providers, develop standards and oversee appropriate hate
253 crimes diversion programs to meet the requirements of this section.
254 Any defendant whose employment or residence makes it unreasonable
255 to attend a hate crimes diversion program in this state may attend a
256 program in another state which has standards substantially similar to,
257 or higher than, those of this state, subject to the approval of the court
258 and payment of the application and program fees as provided in this
259 section. The hate crimes diversion program shall consist of an
260 educational program and supervised community service.

261 (f) If a defendant released to the custody of the Court Support
262 Services Division satisfactorily completes such defendant's period of
263 probation, such defendant may apply for dismissal of the charges
264 against such defendant and the court, on finding such satisfactory
265 completion, shall dismiss such charges. If the defendant does not apply
266 for dismissal of the charges against such defendant after satisfactorily
267 completing such defendant's period of probation, the court, upon
268 receipt of a report submitted by the Court Support Services Division
269 that the defendant satisfactorily completed such defendant's period of
270 probation, may on its own motion make a finding of such satisfactory
271 completion and dismiss such charges. If a defendant transferred to the
272 court handling the criminal docket for drug-dependent persons

273 satisfactorily completes such defendant's period of supervision, the
274 court shall release the defendant to the custody of the Court Support
275 Services Division under such conditions as the court shall order or
276 shall dismiss such charges. Upon dismissal, all records of such charges
277 shall be erased pursuant to section 54-142a. An order of the court
278 denying a motion to dismiss the charges against a defendant who has
279 completed such defendant's period of probation or supervision or
280 terminating the participation of a defendant in such program shall be a
281 final judgment for purposes of appeal.

282 (g) Not later than January 15, 2016, the Court Support Services
283 Division shall submit a report detailing the total number of (1)
284 veterans, and (2) nonveterans for whom, in the preceding calendar
285 year, the court has invoked or denied the pretrial program for
286 accelerated rehabilitation pursuant to this section to the joint standing
287 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
288 relating to veterans' and military affairs and the judiciary, in
289 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a.

290 Sec. 4. Section 54-56i of the general statutes is repealed and the
291 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

292 (a) There is established a pretrial drug education and community
293 service program for persons charged with a violation of section
294 21a-267, 21a-279 or 21a-279a. The drug education and community
295 service program shall include a fifteen-week drug education program
296 and a substance abuse treatment program of not less than fifteen
297 sessions, and the performance of community service.

298 (b) Upon application by any such person for participation in such
299 program and payment to the court of an application fee of one
300 hundred dollars and a nonrefundable evaluation fee of one hundred
301 fifty dollars, the court shall, but only as to the public, order the court
302 file sealed. A person shall be ineligible for participation in such pretrial
303 drug education and community service program if such person has

304 twice previously participated in (1) the pretrial drug education
305 program established under the provisions of this section in effect prior
306 to October 1, 2013, (2) the community service labor program
307 established under section 53a-39c, (3) the drug education and
308 community service program established under this section, or (4) any
309 of such programs, except that the court may allow a person who has
310 twice previously participated in such programs to participate in the
311 pretrial drug education and community service program one
312 additional time, for good cause shown. The evaluation and application
313 fee imposed under this subsection shall be credited to the pretrial
314 account established under section 54-56k.

315 (c) The court, after consideration of the recommendation of the
316 state's attorney, assistant state's attorney or deputy assistant state's
317 attorney in charge of the case, may, in its discretion, grant such
318 application. If the court grants such application, the court shall refer
319 such person (1) to the Court Support Services Division for
320 confirmation of the eligibility of the applicant, (2) to the Department of
321 Mental Health and Addiction Services for evaluation and
322 determination of an appropriate drug education or substance abuse
323 treatment program for the first or second time such application is
324 granted, and (3) to a state-licensed substance abuse treatment program
325 for evaluation and determination of an appropriate substance abuse
326 treatment program for the third time such application is granted,
327 except that, if such person is a veteran, the court may refer such person
328 to the Department of Veterans' Affairs or the United States Department
329 of Veterans Affairs, as applicable, for any such evaluation and
330 determination. For the purposes of this subsection and subsection (d)
331 of this section, "veteran" means any person who was discharged or
332 released under conditions other than dishonorable from active service
333 in the armed forces as defined in section 27-103.

334 (d) (1) (A) Upon confirmation of eligibility and receipt of the
335 evaluation and determination required under subsection (c) of this
336 section, such person shall be placed in the drug education and

337 community service program and referred by the Court Support
338 Services Division for the purpose of receiving appropriate drug
339 education services or substance abuse treatment program services, as
340 recommended by the evaluation conducted pursuant to subsection (c)
341 of this section and ordered by the court, to the Department of Mental
342 Health and Addiction Services or to a state-licensed substance abuse
343 treatment program for placement in the appropriate drug education or
344 substance abuse treatment program, except that, if such person is a
345 veteran, the division may refer such person to the Department of
346 Veterans' Affairs or the United States Department of Veterans Affairs,
347 subject to the provisions of subdivision (2) of this subsection.

348 (B) Persons who have been granted entry into the drug education
349 and community service program for the first time shall participate in
350 either a fifteen-week drug education program or a substance abuse
351 treatment program of not less than fifteen sessions, as ordered by the
352 court on the basis of the evaluation and determination required under
353 subsection (c) of this section. Persons who have been granted entry
354 into the drug education and community service program for the
355 second time shall participate in either a fifteen-week drug education
356 program or a substance abuse treatment program of not less than
357 fifteen sessions, as ordered by the court based on the evaluation and
358 determination required under subsection (c) of this section. Persons
359 who have been granted entry into the drug education and community
360 service program for a third time shall be referred to a state-licensed
361 substance abuse program for evaluation and participation in a course
362 of treatment as ordered by the court based on the evaluation and
363 determination required under subsection (c) of this section.

364 (C) Persons who have been granted entry into the drug education
365 and community service program shall also participate in a community
366 service program administered by the Court Support Services Division
367 pursuant to section 53a-39c. Persons who have been granted entry into
368 the drug education and community service program for the first time
369 shall participate in the community service program for a period of five

370 days. Persons who have been granted entry into the drug education
371 and community service program for the second time shall participate
372 in the community service program for a period of fifteen days. Persons
373 who have been granted entry into the drug education and community
374 service program for a third or additional time shall participate in the
375 community service program for a period of thirty days.

376 (D) Placement in the drug education and community service
377 program pursuant to this section shall not exceed one year. Persons
378 receiving substance abuse treatment program services in accordance
379 with the provisions of this section shall only receive such services at
380 state-licensed substance abuse treatment program facilities that are in
381 compliance with all state standards governing the operation of such
382 facilities, except that, if such person is a veteran, such person may
383 receive services from facilities under the supervision of the
384 Department of Veterans' Affairs or the United States Department of
385 Veterans Affairs, subject to the provisions of subdivision (2) of this
386 subsection.

387 (E) Any person who enters the drug education and community
388 service program shall agree: (i) To the tolling of the statute of
389 limitations with respect to such crime; (ii) to a waiver of such person's
390 right to a speedy trial; (iii) to complete participation in the drug
391 education and community service program, as ordered by the court;
392 (iv) to commence participation in the drug education and community
393 service program not later than ninety days after the date of entry of the
394 court order unless granted a delayed entry into the program by the
395 court; and (v) upon completion of participation in the drug education
396 and community service program, to accept (I) placement in a treatment
397 program upon the recommendation of a provider under contract with
398 the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services or a provider
399 under the supervision of the Department of Veterans' Affairs or the
400 United States Department of Veterans Affairs, or (II) placement in a
401 treatment program that has standards substantially similar to, or
402 higher than, a program of a provider under contract with the

403 Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, if the Court
404 Support Services Division deems it appropriate.

405 (2) The Court Support Services Division may only refer a veteran to
406 the Department of Veterans' Affairs or the United States Department of
407 Veterans Affairs for the receipt of services under the program if (A) the
408 division determines that such services will be provided in a timely
409 manner under standards substantially similar to, or higher than,
410 standards for services provided by the Department of Mental Health
411 and Addiction Services under the program, and (B) the applicable
412 department agrees to submit timely program participation and
413 completion reports to the division in the manner required by the
414 division.

415 (e) If the Court Support Services Division informs the court that
416 such person is ineligible for the program and the court makes a
417 determination of ineligibility or if the program provider certifies to the
418 court that such person did not successfully complete the assigned
419 program and such person did not request, or the court denied,
420 reinstatement in the program under subsection (i) of this section, the
421 court shall order the court file to be unsealed, enter a plea of not guilty
422 for such person and immediately place the case on the trial list.

423 (f) If such person satisfactorily completes the assigned program,
424 such person may apply for dismissal of the charges against such
425 person and the court, on reviewing the record of such person's
426 participation in such program submitted by the Court Support
427 Services Division and on finding such satisfactory completion, shall
428 dismiss the charges. If such person does not apply for dismissal of the
429 charges against such person after satisfactorily completing the
430 assigned program, the court, upon receipt of the record of such
431 person's participation in such program submitted by the Court
432 Support Services Division, may on its own motion make a finding of
433 such satisfactory completion and dismiss the charges. Upon motion of
434 such person and a showing of good cause, the court may extend the

435 placement period for a reasonable period of time to allow such person
436 to complete the assigned program. A record of participation in such
437 program shall be retained by the Court Support Services Division for a
438 period of ten years from the date the court grants the application for
439 participation in the program.

440 (g) At the time the court grants the application for participation in
441 the pretrial drug education and community service program, any
442 person ordered to participate in the drug education program shall pay
443 to the court a nonrefundable program fee of six hundred dollars. If the
444 court orders participation in a substance abuse treatment program,
445 such person shall pay to the court a nonrefundable program fee of one
446 hundred dollars and shall be responsible for the costs associated with
447 such program. No person may be excluded from any such program for
448 inability to pay such fee or cost, provided (1) such person files with the
449 court an affidavit of indigency or inability to pay, (2) such indigency or
450 inability to pay is confirmed by the Court Support Services Division,
451 and (3) the court enters a finding thereof. The court may waive all or
452 any portion of such fee depending on such person's ability to pay. If
453 the court finds that a person is indigent or unable to pay for a
454 substance abuse treatment program, the costs of such program shall be
455 paid from the pretrial account established under section 54-56k. If the
456 court denies the application, such person shall not be required to pay
457 the program fee. If the court grants the application, and such person is
458 later determined to be ineligible for participation in such pretrial drug
459 education and community service program or fails to complete the
460 assigned program, the program fee shall not be refunded. All program
461 fees shall be credited to the pretrial account established under section
462 54-56k.

463 (h) If a person returns to court with certification from a program
464 provider that such person did not successfully complete the assigned
465 program or is no longer amenable to treatment, the provider, to the
466 extent practicable, shall include a recommendation to the court as to
467 whether placement in a drug education program or placement in a

468 substance abuse treatment program would best serve such person's
469 needs. The provider shall also indicate whether the current program
470 referral was an initial referral or a reinstatement to the program.

471 (i) When a person subsequently requests reinstatement into a drug
472 education program or a substance abuse treatment program and the
473 Court Support Services Division verifies that such person is eligible for
474 reinstatement into such program and thereafter the court favorably
475 acts on such request, any person reinstated into the drug education
476 program shall pay a nonrefundable program fee of two hundred fifty
477 dollars, and any person reinstated into a substance abuse treatment
478 program shall be responsible for the costs, if any, associated with being
479 reinstated into the treatment program. Unless good cause is shown,
480 such program fee shall not be waived. All program fees collected in
481 connection with a reinstatement to a drug education program shall be
482 credited to the pretrial account established under section 54-56k. No
483 person shall be permitted more than two program reinstatements
484 pursuant to this subsection.

485 (j) The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services shall
486 develop standards and oversee appropriate drug education programs
487 that it administers to meet the requirements of this section and may
488 contract with service providers to provide such programs. The
489 department shall adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter 54, to
490 establish standards for such drug education programs.

491 (k) Any person whose employment or residence or schooling makes
492 it unreasonable to attend a drug education program or substance
493 abuse treatment program in this state may attend a program in another
494 state that has standards similar to, or higher than, those of this state,
495 subject to the approval of the court and payment of the program fee or
496 costs as provided in this section.

497 (l) Not later than January 15, 2016, the Court Support Services
498 Division shall submit a report detailing the number of (1) veterans, and

499 (2) nonveterans who, in the preceding calendar year, were granted or
500 denied placement in the pretrial drug education and community
501 service program pursuant to this section to the joint standing
502 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
503 relating to veterans' and military affairs and the judiciary, in
504 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2015</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	54-56l
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	54-56e
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	54-56i

Statement of Purpose:

To require a separate veterans' docket be established in each judicial district and to require the Court Support Services Division to report on participation and eligibility for certain pretrial diversion programs.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]